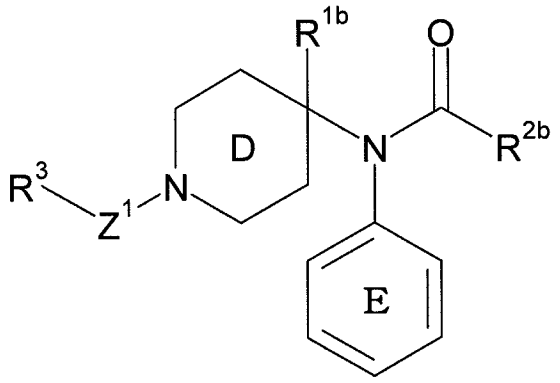
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A compound represented by the formula:



(I''''')

wherein ring D represents ~~an optionally further substituted~~a piperidine ring optionally further substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl, E represents ~~an optionally substituted~~a phenyl group optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and C_{1-6} alkyl, Z^1 represents a methylene group optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}~~lower~~ alkyl, C_{1-6}~~lower~~ alkoxycarbonyl, oxo and phenyl, $-COCH_2-$, $-CH_2CO-$ or $-SO_2-$, R^{1b} represents ~~an optionally substituted~~ (i) a 2-thiazolyl group optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl, ~~an optionally substituted~~(ii) a 2-imidazolyl group optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl,~~or an optionally substituted~~(iii) a 2-pyridyl group optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, a halogen atom,

C_{1-6} alkylthio, phenyl and thienyl, R^{2b} represents an optionally halogenated ~~lower~~ C_{1-6} alkyl group, and R^3 represents ~~an optionally substituted phenyl group, an optionally substituted aromatic heterocyclic group or an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group~~ (i) a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, (ii) a phenyl group or (iii) a 5- to 10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing one or two kinds of 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom in addition to carbon atoms, which may be substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, cyano, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkoxy optionally substituted with a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino, a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group and C_{1-6} alkylthio, provided that 1) N-[1-benzyl-4-(thiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropionamide, 2) N-[1-benzyl-4-(thiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(2-fluorophenyl)propionamide, 3) N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(2-fluorophenyl)propionamide, 4) N-[1-benzyl-4-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropionamide, 5) N-[1-benzyl-4-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(2-fluorophenyl)propionamide, 6) N-[1-benzyl-4-(2-pyridinyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(2-fluorophenyl)propionamide, 7) N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropionamide and 8) N-[1-benzyl-4-(2-pyridinyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropionamide are excluded, or a salt thereof.

12. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^3 is an optionally substituted phenyl group or an optionally substituted thienyl group.

13. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^3 is a phenyl group.

14. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein E is a phenyl group optionally having a substituent at an ortho position or a meta position.

15. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein E is an unsubstituted phenyl group.

16. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{1b} is a 2-thiazolyl group optionally substituted with a ~~lower~~ C_{1-6} alkyl group.

17. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{1b} is a 4-methyl-2-thiazolyl group.

18. (withdrawn-currently amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{1b} is a 2-pyridyl group optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a ~~lower~~ C_{1-6} alkyl group, a ~~lower~~ C_{1-6} alkylthio group, a halogen atom, a C_{6-14} aryl group and an aromatic heterocyclic group.

19. (withdrawn): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{1b} is a 6-methyl-2-pyridyl group.

20. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein Z^1 is a methylene group optionally substituted with a ~~lower~~ C_{1-6} alkyl group.

21. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein Z^1 is a methylene group.

22. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{2b} is an optionally halogenated methyl group or ethyl group.

23. (original): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R^{2b} is a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group.

24-25. (canceled).

26. (previously presented): N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)-4-piperidinyl]-2,2,2-trifluoro-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(2-methylphenyl)acetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-(3-chlorophenyl)acetamide, N-[4-(4-methylthiazol-2-yl)-1-(2-thienylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide, N-[1-benzyl-4-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylacetamide, or a salt thereof.

27. (canceled).

28. (currently amended): A medicine comprising the compound according to claim 11 or 26 or a salt thereof ~~or a prodrug thereof~~.

29. (new): A pharmaceutical composition for regulating neuromedin U receptor, which comprises the compound according to claim 11 or 26 or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.